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CLASSIFICATION	<del>Secret</del>	
COUNTRY	Soviet Zone of Germany	25X1 REPORT NO. 25X1
TOPIC	Soviet Troops in COTTBUS	
	25X1	
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED 25X1
DATE OF CONTENT	Mid-November to 12 December 1949	
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED 1 February 1950
REFERENCES	25X1	
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)
REMARKS	RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY	

25X1 1. a. The AT artillery unit from the Alvensleben Kaserne, COTTBUS (N 52/A 57), held firing practices in LIEBEROSE (N 52/A 49) from 10 to 17 November 1949.

25X1 b. The tank units stationed in the Hermann-Loens Kaserne held field practices in the EICHOW (N 52/A 47) area almost every night during November 1949. Passenger cars [ ] and truck [ ] were observed in the kaserne area.

25X1 c. Col SHIRBAKOV and Maj PANKIN were identified in the Hermann Loens Kaserne on 25 November 1949.

[ ] 2. The COTTBUS kasernes were occupied as follows on 26 November 1949:

a. Nachrichten Kaserne on Karl-Liebknechtstrasse:

Occupied to capacity by troops of artillery, tank and signal units. Six guns of about 180 mm caliber and one truck with mounted rocket launcher left the kaserne for field exercise every morning.

b. Sachsendorf Kaserne

Occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia. No heavy weapons were seen. Destroyed wooden buildings were being rebuilt. Three of about ten trucks parked in front of the garage [ ]

c. Hermann Loens Kaserne:

About half occupied by a tank unit. Local residents said that about 15 T34 tanks were stationed in the kaserne. Three tanks of this type were seen moving toward the kaserne.

3. The following information on the occupation of COTTBUS kasernes was obtained on 28 November 1949:

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Date: 14 JUN 1978

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a. Hermann Loens Kaserne:

Occupied by a division headquarters and a tank unit with about 500 officers and EM.

There was heavy motor vehicle traffic.

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b. Funker Kaserne on Gulbenerstrasse:

Occupied by an AAA unit of about 500 troops, including numerous very young soldiers, allegedly recruits. Three AA guns of about 80 mm caliber were seen in the kaserne area. Four other AA guns of the same caliber were emplaced on the SW border of the landing field of the airfield. Motor vehicles of the unit, having numbers of the 74-46-xx series, were parked opposite the main entrance of the airfield. Truck

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4. The following information on COTTBUS kasernes was obtained on 12 December 1949:

a. Artillerie Kaserne on Karl-Liebknechtstrasse:

Occupied by artillery and rocket launcher units of about 800 troops and a signal unit of about 50 men. Most of the troops were recruits, 17 or 18 years of age. Older soldiers were employed as clerks, instructors and drivers. 76.2-mm guns, guns of larger caliber, rocket launchers mounted on trucks (including truck) and AT rifles were seen in the kaserne area. Soldiers were trained with guns, aiming circles, AT rifles and underwent drill practice.

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The following motor vehicles were identified:

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b. Kaserne south of SACHSENDORF:

Occupied by:

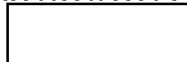
(1) Artillery unit of about 800 troops, including older personnel and recruits. Two AT guns, of 40 to 50 mm caliber were observed with the troops. Motor vehicles driven by soldiers wearing artillery insignia, were observed.

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(2) Fully-motorized infantry unit of about 800 troops, mostly 17 or 18 year-old recruits. Only the unit cadre personnel were trained men.

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25X1 (3) Signal unit of about 300 troops, mostly 17 or 18-year-old recruits who had recently arrived. Motor vehicles [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted] driven by soldiers wearing signal insignia, were  
25X1 observed with the unit. Besides telephone equipment with all accessories, the small radio truck [redacted] and the large radio truck [redacted] were observed with the unit. In addition to the mentioned motor vehicles, the following three passenger cars were observed in the kaserne:

25X1 [redacted] occupied by a field officer with gold-red epaulets  
[redacted] occupied by an officer with white-red epaulets  
25X1 [redacted] occupied by an officer with gold-red epaulets.

c. Dissenchen Kaserne east of COTTBUS:

Occupied by:

25X1 (1) Infantry unit of about 500 troops, almost exclusively 17 or 18-year-old recruits who had recently arrived.

25X1 (2) Tank unit of about 500 troops, all older personnel wearing war decorations and golden or silver tank badges. Motor vehicles [redacted] insignia were observed. [redacted] driven by soldiers wearing tank

25X1 [redacted]  
25X1 (3) Artillery unit of about 500 troops, about two thirds recruits and one third trained personnel wearing war decorations. Motor vehicles [redacted] driven by soldiers wearing artillery insignia, were observed.

25X1 (4) Motor transport unit of about 100 men.

25X1 (5) Engineer unit of about 100 men.

25X1 [redacted]  
Although no heavy weapons were seen in the kaserne area, tank ruts were observed. In addition to the mentioned motor vehicles, numerous motor vehicles [redacted] several trucks [redacted] were observed.

25X1 [redacted] Comment:

25X1 a. The report confirms previous information on the same COTTBUS kasernes as of early November 1949. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] again confirms the 71st Mecz Regt (Cadre) of the 9th Mecz Div (Cadre) (confirmed in COTTBUS [redacted] up to 20 December 1949).

25X1 b. It is considered credible that the units, most of which had returned to their winter quarters in late October 1949, may hold their winter exercises near the military post or, alternately, at training grounds. Similar information was obtained from the billeting area of the 1st Mecz Div.

c. The officers identified in the Hermann Loens Kaserne are unknown.

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